

Message Text

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TAGS: OCON, PARM, UNDC, FI, UR
SUBJECT: VISIT OF AMBASSADOR LEONARD: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND
PROGRAM SUGGESTIONS

REF: (A) HELSINKI 0673 (NOTAL), (B) USUN 0914 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: THIS MESSAGE PROVIDES ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
CONCERNING THE SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE
AND PROPOSALS FOR AMBASSADOR LEONARD'S PROGRAM IN HELSINKI.
WE WOULD APPRECIATE AMBASSADOR LEONARD'S COMMENTS ON THE
PROGRAM; MEANWHILE WE ARE PROCEEDING WITH INVITATIONS TO
THE SUGGESTED SOCIAL EVENTS. END SUMMARY.

2. WE HAVE BEEN IN COMMUNICATION WITH THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC
PARTY (SDP), ORGANIZERS OF THE SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT TO BE HELD IN HELSINKI APRIL 24-26,
1978. SDP OFFICIALS STATE THEY HAVE AS YET NO DEFINITE
COMMITMENT FROM THE SOVIETS CONCERNING WHO WILL BE THE
SOVIET GUEST SPEAKER AT THE CONFERENCE. HOWEVER, SDP
OFFICIALS WERE RECENTLY IN MOSCOW WHERE THEY DISCUSSED
THE CONFERENCE WITH ACADEMICIAN GEORGIY ARBATOV. THE
SDP THINKS IT QUITE LIKELY THAT ARBATOV WILL BE THE
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GUEST SPAKER; IF NOT ARBATOV, THE SDP IS GUESSING IT
WILL BE AN ACADEMICIAN OF SIMILAR RANK. ACCORDING
TO THE SDP REPRESENTATIVES WHO SPOKE WITH ARBATOV,
HE EXPRESSED HIS HOPE THAT THE FORMAT OF THE
CONFERENCE WOULD PERMIT THE GUEST SPEAKERS TO
PARTICIPATE IN THE DISCUSSIONS AND THE
DELIBERATIONS OF THE CONFERENCE RATHER THAN BEING

LIMITED TO ADDRESSING THE OPENING SESSION. HOWEVER, THE SDP UPON REFLECTION HAS DECIDED TO STICK TO THE ORIGINAL FORMAT. THEREFORE, THE GUEST SPEAKERS WILL BE WELCOME TO OBSERVE ANY OF THE SESSIONS OF THE CONFERENCE BUT WILL NOT BE EXPECTED TO PARTICIPATE ACTIVELY AFTER THE OPENING SESSION. SDP ORGANIZERS ARE REQUESTING THAT EACH GUEST SPEAKER'S PRESENTATION BE BETWEEN 40 AND 60 MINUTES IN LENGTH.

3. ARBATOV TOLD THE SDP THAT THE SOVIET SPEAKER WILL DISCUSS RELATIONS BETWEEN THE SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL PARTIES AND THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF THE SOVIET UNION AND THE ROLE THAT THIS RELATIONSHIP PLAYS IN THE DETENTE PROCESS. ARBATOV INDICATED THAT THE SPEAKER WILL ALSO DISCUSS POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN EUROPE AND THE ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITY OF THE SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL MOVEMENT. HE SAID THE SOVIETS HOPE THAT THE PRESENTATIONS OF THE GUEST SPEAKERS WILL BE BALANCED AND WITHOUT UNDUE CRITICISM OF THE OTHER SIDE: HE SAID, HOWEVER, THAT OBVIOUSLY NOT ALL CITICISM SHOULD BE AVOIDED. ACCORDING TO THE SDP OFFICIALS, ARBATOV ALSO INDICATED INDIRECTLY THAT THE SOVIET SPEAKER WOULD BE WILLING TO MEET WITH HIS AMERICAN COUNTERPART.

4. SDP OFFICIALS HERE TAKE IT AS A GIVEN THAT THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SOVIET SPEAKER WILL RAISE THE NEUTRON BOMB ISSUE IN HIS PRESENTATION. THEY ALSO EXPECT THAT THE NEUTRON BOMB WILL BE ONE OF THE TOPICS OF DISCUSSION DURING THE CONFERENCE.

5. OUR PROPOSALS FOR AMBASSADOR LEONARD'S SCHEDULE IN HELSINKI ARE CONTAINED IN PARAGRAPH SIX. IN PREPARING THESE PROPOSALS, WE HAVE KEPT IN MIND THE POSSIBILITY THAT AMBASSADOR LEONARD MAY WISH TO OBSERVE ONE OR MORE OF THE CONFERENCE SESSIONS AND THAT HIS DECISION AS TO WHETHER TO ATTEND SOME SESSIONS WILL DEPEND IMPORTANTLY UPON THE MANNER IN WHICH THE CONFERENCE DEVELOPS. WITH THAT AMBIGUITY THUS LEFT UNRESOLVED FOR THE TIME BEING, WE PROPOSE THE FOLLOWING:

7. SUNDAY, APRIL 23

1315 ARRIVE HELSINKI FROM FRANKFURT
P.M. REST AND RELAXATION

1900 INFORMAL DINNER OFFERED BY AMBASSADOR
WITH A FEW WORKING LEVEL SDP OFFICIALS WHO HAVE

PARTICIPATED IN THE PREPARATION OF THE CONFERENCE,
TOGETHER WITH SOME EMBASSY OFFICERS.

MONDAY, APRIL 24

A.M. STILL OPEN, POSSIBILITY OF SIGHTSEEING,
A MEETING WITH SOVIET COUNTERPART, OR A PRESS INTERVIEW

LUNCH. AS DESIRED AT RESIDENCE, NO PROGRAM.

1500-1800 OPENING SESSION OF SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL
DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE. ADDRESSES BY FORMER SWEDISH PM
OLOF PALME, PRIME MINISTER KALEVI SORSA, AMBASSADOR
ELONARD, AND SOVIET SPEAKER (SPEAKING ORDER BETWEEN
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AMBASSADOR LEONARD AND SOVIET REPRESENTATIVE HAS YET TO BE
DETERMINED, ACCORDING TO THE CONFERENCE ORGANIZERS).

DINNER. PRIVATE, INFORMAL AT RESIDENCE.

2000 RECEPTION OFFERED FOR CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS
BY PRIME MINISTER KALEVI SORSA.

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TUESDAY, APRIL 25

A.M. OBSERVE CONFERENCE SESSION, SIGHTSEEING, OR OTHER.

1200 BUFFET LUNCH/DISCUSSION AT RESIDENCE. WE ARE INVITING MEMBERS OF FINLAND'S DISARMAMENT COMMITTEE, KEY MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT, AND MIDDLE-RANKING OFFICIALS OF THE FOREIGN AND DEFENSE MINISTRIES. IT IS OUR HOPE THAT AMBASSADOR LEONARD WOULD BE ABLE TO GIVE A BRIEF OVERVIEW OF US DISARMAMENT POLICY TO THIS INFLUENTIAL GROUP OF FINNISH OFFICIALS AND PUBLIC FIGURES.

1630 PRES'D BACKGROUNDER AT THE EMBASSY RESIDENCE FOR EDITORS AND DISARMAMENT WRITERS FROM THE FINNISH MEDIA.

DINNER. PRIVATE AND INFORMAL AT THE RESIDENCE.

2000 RECEPTION BY SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY FOR DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26

0900-1115 CONSULTATIONS AT THE MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS
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1130 ATTEND CLOSING SESSION OF THE SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE (CLOSING SPEECH BY FORMER FRG CHANCELLOR BRANDT

1245 LUNCH HOSTED BY MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

1430-1630 CONSULTATIONS AT THE MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS

FORMAL DINNER AT THE RESIDENCE OFFERED BY AMBASSADOR RIDGWAY. WE ARE INVITING THE PRIME MINISTER, THE FOREIGN MINISTER (WHO POSSIBLY WILL BE OUT OF TOWN) AND FINLAND'S TOP FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMUNITY FIGURES.

THURSDAY, APRIL 27. TO BE DETERMINED DEPENDING UPON AMBASSADOR LEONARD'S DEPARTURE PLANS.

7. WE WOULD WELCOME AMBASSADOR LEONARD'S COMMENTS ON THE ABOVE PROPOSED PROGRAM. IT REMAINS POSSIBLE THAT THE SDP WILL BE ORGANIZING DINNERS ON APRIL 24 AND/OR 25 TO WHICH AMBASSADOR LEONARD WOULD BE INVITED. WE WILL ADVISE AS SOON AS WE HAVE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION. WE ARE ALSO DEVELOPING FURTHER INFORMATION CONCERNING THE LIKELY AGENDA FOR THE BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTRY AND WILL REPORT OUR INFORMATION AND SUGGESTIONS. EMBASSY CONTROL OFFICER FOR AMBASSADOR LEONARD'S VISIT IS POLITICAL COUNSELOR COOPER.

RIDGWAY

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